

ANSWERS TO BASIC QUESTIONS PART II: WHAT IS SIN?

Houses of Light Church • July 31 - August 1, 2021 • Pastor Netz Gómez

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. After we have concluded our study of the **Song of Solomon** book, for the next few weeks we will continue with the series: **Answers to Basic Questions Part II**. In the first part we talked about Why the Bible? Why do We Sing? What Does God Want From our Family? How do we Protect Ourselves? And now we continue with this basic question, What is Sin?
- B. No doubt there are many ideas in the world as to what sin is; there are those who think that everything is sin; others who think that nothing is sin. Some feel that it is a bad thing and others that it is a fun thing, but what is the biblical definition?

II. HOW SIN AROSE (Gen. 3:1-24)

- A. The first time sin appears in the Bible is in the story of the fall of man described in this passage. God had given a very clear order to man:
Gen. 2:16-17 *'But the Lord God warned him, "You may freely eat the fruit of every tree in the garden— 17 except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat its fruit, you are sure to die".'*
- B. **God did not tell Adam not to eat of that fruit because it is sin but because the consequence of this disobedience is death.** The reason why God does not want sin in our lives is because it is a violation of His will, breaks our communion with Him and produces death in every way. The devil comes to Eve and perverts God's command by telling her:
Gn. 3:1 *"Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?"*
- C. **This was a lie, God's order was the exact opposite "you can eat from any tree; Only one can not eat."** It is not the same that they tell you: 'you can always go out less this day' Than that they put the doubt on you 'with: 'they do not let you go out?' **Satan is the one who sows doubt to deceive and provoke evil desires.** Eve responds to the devil that God had allowed them to eat the fruit of the trees but specifically not from that tree so that they would not die (**Gen. 3: 2**). Satan continues with her strategy of deception and tells her:
Gen. 3:4b-5 *"You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. s "God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil."*
- D. **The lie seduced Eve and produced a sinful desire,** that is, a strong desire to disobey God, thinking that there was something better than obedience.
Gen. 3:6 *"The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too."*

E. Sin produced its destructive consequences immediately:

1. **They lost their innocence: Gen. 3:7 "At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves."** Sin seduces but always produces shame that is why much of sin is kept secret. They looked for a way to solve their shame but it was useless.
2. **Se produjo la culpabilidad y temor: Gen. 3:8-10 "When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the Lord God among the trees. ⁹ Then the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ He replied, "I heard you walking in the garden, so I hid. I was afraid because I was naked."** When God asks Adam Where are you? It was not because God did not know where he was but because Adam did not know where his disobedience had led him.
3. **Curse came on all creation:** Just as God said, death entered creation and nothing was the same.
 - a) **Strife between the devil and humanity. Gen. 3:15 "And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."**
 - b) **Pain in pregnancy and childbirth as well as the struggle between genders Gen. 3:16 "I will sharpen the pain of your pregnancy, and in pain you will give birth. And you will desire to control your husband, but he will rule over you."**
 - c) **Curse on the earth and therefore the difficulty of obtaining sustenance: Gen. 3:17b-19a "the ground is cursed because of you. All your life you will struggle to scratch a living from it. ¹⁸ It will grow thorns and thistles for you, though you will eat of its grains. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat."**
4. **In conclusion sin brought death to the entire creation. Rom. 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death..."**

III. DEFINITION

- A. According to this story and all of Scripture, **sin is all disobedience to the will of God expressed in His Word.** The essence of this disobedience is based on man detaching himself from God to make himself his 'own god'. Sin is an offense against God who established the restriction.

Psal. 51:4 "Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just"

- B. Adam's sin brought serious consequences because it was transferred to the world and thus death entered because everyone sinned. Through the sin that Adam introduced human beings became sinners by nature, bringing spiritual death and depravity, which would pass to all their descendants. **We**

are sinners, not because we sin; on the contrary, we sin because we are sinners.

Rom. 5:12 *"When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned."*

- C. Sin is a destructive force in the heart of the human being that enslaves it:

Rom. 7:19-20 *"I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. 20 But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it."*

Jn. 8:34 *"Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin."*

- D. Sin can lead people who give up to it to hell:

Mat. 5:29 *"So if your eye—even your good eye—causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell."*

IV. GOD'S REMEDY

Ez. 18:23 *"Do you think that I like to see wicked people die? says the Sovereign Lord. Of course not! I want them to turn from their wicked ways and live."*

- A. All humans, from Adam to Moses, were subject to death, not only because of their sinful actions against the Mosaic Law (which they did not yet have), but because of their own inherited sin nature. After Moses, humans were subject to death for both sin inherited from Adam and sin attributed to violating God's law.

- B. **Violation of the law merited the death penalty, so God in His infinite grace and wisdom sent a substitute to pay the sentence and grant us forgiveness and salvation from the curse.** God treated Jesus as if He were a sinner, even though He never was; and he made him die for the sins of the whole world (1 **Jn. 2:2**). The Father sent his Son to pay the penalty that sin merits.

Isa. 53:5 *"But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed."*

Rom. 8:3 *"...So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins."*

- C. Just as God credited our sins to Christ's account, by His undeserved grace God attributed Christ's righteousness to believers.

2 Cor. 5:21 *"For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ."*

V. HOW DO WE FIGHT SIN IN OUR LIFE?

- A. On God's part, He has provided the means to nullify the legal condemnation that sin produces but there is still a war against sin that remains in our nature but God has also given us the answer: If sin was produced by the lie of the devil, freedom from sin is produced by the truth of Christ. Just as deception

produced sinful desire, truth produces a longing for purity and righteousness.

Eph. 4:22-24 "that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, ²³ and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, ²⁴ and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."

- B. Now we can choose whether or not to commit personal sins, because we have the power to resist sin through the Holy Spirit who dwells within us, sanctifying us and giving us the conviction of our sins when we commit them.

Rom. 8:4-7 "...but instead follow the Spirit. ⁵ Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. ⁶ So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. ⁷ For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will.

- C. Daily we confess our personal sins to God and ask His forgiveness for them, we are restored to perfect fellowship and communion with Him..

1 Jn. 1:9 "But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness."

- D. When a sin is persistent we must confess it to other mature brothers to receive help and render accounts.

Jas. 5:16 "Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results."

VI. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What do you understand sin to be and what are its consequences?
2. How are you fighting sin in your life?
3. Is there any persistent sin that you need to confess? Explain